Claims

1.   A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

     a customer depositing cash with a depository, said depository being independent of said customer such that the identity of said customer remains anonymous, the depository issuing to the customer a serial number corresponding to the amount of cash deposited therewith; and

     submitting the serial number to the on-line merchant to purchase goods or services, said on-line merchant and said depository being unable to identify said customer during said purchase.

2.   A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

     a customer depositing an amount of monies with a seller, said seller informing a server of the amount of monies received from said customer, said customer, seller and server each being independent of each other such that the identity of said customer remains anonymous;

     said server issuing to said customer a serial number corresponding to the amount of monies deposited with seller; and

     said customer submitting the serial number to a on-line merchant to purchase goods or services.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further including the step of said server,

2   upon receipt of information from said seller of the amount of monies seller

3   received from said customer, electronically transfers an amount of monies from

4   an account of said seller to a second account.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, further including the step of said server

2   electronically transfers an amount of monies from said second account to an

3   account of said on-line merchant.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, further including the step of said on-line

2   merchant, upon receipt of said serial number submitted by said customer,

3   transmits said serial number to said server for authentication.

1   6.   The method of claim 2, wherein said amount of monies

2   deposited with said seller is in the form of cash.

1   7.   A method according to claim 2, further including the step of

2   providing a computer readable form having the serial numbers corresponding

3   to the amount of funds deposited therewith disposed thereon.

1   8.   A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or

2   services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

3   a customer depositing an amount of monies with a seller, said seller

4   informing a server of the amount of monies received from said customer;

5   said server issuing to said customer a serial number corresponding to

6   the amount of monies customer deposited with seller, said serial number

7   comprising information about said customer's age; and

8   said customer submitting the serial number to an on-line merchant to

9   purchase goods or services.

1   9.   A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or

2   services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

3   a customer depositing cash with a depository, the depository issuing to

4   the customer a serial number corresponding to the amount of cash deposited

5   therewith, said serial number comprising information about said customer's

6   age; and

7   submitting the serial number to the on-line merchant to purchase goods

8   or services.